

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1. A method for increasing resource utilization efficiency and identifying areas to enhance quality, said method comprising the steps of:

collecting data for a clinical procedure performed at the point of patient care;

10 establishing a benchmark based upon at least a portion of said data; and

standardizing said clinical procedure based upon said benchmark.

15 2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of rewarding physicians' efforts to reduce costs by providing a share of savings in response to utilizing said standardized procedure.

20 3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said collecting step comprises determining resources used in said clinical procedure.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein said establishing step comprises identifying resources to be used to establish said benchmark for said clinical procedure.

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5. The method of Claim 1 wherein standardizing step comprises setting the quantity of at least one resource to be used for said clinical procedure while correlating the clinical outcome.

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6. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of accepting a request for said clinical procedure, and requesting resources to be utilized in said clinical procedure based upon said benchmark.

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7. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of accepting a request for said clinical procedure, and allocating resources to said clinical procedure based upon said benchmark.

8. The method of Claim 7 further comprising the step of verifying the existence of supplies in inventory.

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9. The method of Claim 7 further comprising the step of scheduling the requisitioning of supplies based upon said benchmark.

10. The method of Claim 7 further comprising the step of
5 automatically ordering supplies from vendors based upon the needs of the clinical practice based upon said benchmark.

11. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of
10 compiling a report of resources utilization based upon said data.

12. The method of Claim 11 wherein said report comprises a clinical outcomes report.

13. The method of Claim 11 wherein said report comprises a
15 procedure results report.

14. The method of Claim 11 wherein said report comprises a patient profile report.

15. The method of Claim 11 wherein said report comprises information on medication used during said clinical procedure.

16. The method of Claim 11 wherein said report comprises information on the length of stay of patients undergoing said clinical procedures.

17. The method of Claim 11 wherein said report comprises information on the demographics of patients undergoing said clinical procedure.

18. The method of Claim 1 wherein said collecting step comprises monitoring the cost of said clinical procedure to provide a benchmark.

19. The method of Claim 1 wherein said collecting step comprises monitoring costs of requisitioned supplies.

20. The method of Claim 1 wherein said collecting step comprises storing said data collected from performing said clinical procedures.

5 21. A computer-readable medium on which is stored a computer program for increasing resource utilization efficiency, and identifying areas to enhance quality, said computer program comprising instructions which, when executed by a computer, perform the steps of:

collecting data for a clinical procedure performed at the clinical
10 practice and entering said data on said web page;

establishing a benchmark based upon at least a portion of said
data; and

standardizing said clinical procedure based upon said
benchmark characteristic.

15 22. A method enabling a user to increase resource utilization efficiency, and identifying areas to enhance quality, using a computer and a telecommunications link between the computer and the web site, the method comprising the steps of:

20 providing a web page to the computer;

collecting data for a clinical procedure performed at the clinical practice and entering said data on said web page;

establishing a benchmark based upon at least a portion of said data; and

5 standardizing said clinical procedure based upon said benchmark.

23. A hypermedia document for measuring operational efficiency and effectiveness of a clinical practice and identify areas to enhance quality, said hypermedia document comprising:

10 a plurality of hyperlinks providing access to a plurality of files stored on a web site, at least one of said files being adapted for performing the following steps:

collecting data for a clinical procedure performed at the clinical practice;

establishing a benchmark based upon at least a portion of said data; and

standardizing said clinical procedure based upon said benchmark.